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All matter for the Saturday Press should be addressed to the "SATURDAY PRESS."

Reminiscences of Honolulu—No 24.

After completing the occupation of the Fort, a file of French soldiers was marched to the Custom House and Government offices, including the *Polynesian* Printing office (on the site of the present Post-office building) where sentries were posted, and during the occupation Government officials had no access to their offices. The Government printers (the present writer was foreman of the Government press) were sent to the American Mission Printing office to do needed work. The paper was not issued on Saturday, September 1st. During the forenoon of the 25th, all the money in the Government Treasury had been carried up to the Mission premises, and placed for safety in the charge of Hon. S. N. Castle, the Secular Agent of the Mission. The King's yacht, the pretty *Kanaloa*, which had recently arrived from Maui and was lying in the harbor, was seized by the French, and anchored under the stern of the *Gaillard*. And coasting vessels, coming into port from the other Islands, were similarly seized and anchored, so that in the course of a day or two the man-of-war had quite a "monitoir fleet" under her lee. These vessels (excepting the King's yacht), were all released after a few days' vexatious detention, in consequence of remonstrances by foreign Consuls (H. C. Janion, L. H. Anthon, J. F. B. Marshall) and the exhibition of proof that the vessels and their lading was the property of private individuals and not of the Hawaiian Government. One schooner, which was among the first that was seized, was loaded with sugar and produce from the plantation of Dr. H. W. Wood, at Koloa, Kauai. Dr. E. Hoffmann, who was a relative of Dr. Wood, and personally well acquainted with Dillon, the French Consul, went off to the *Gaillard* to endeavor to obtain the release of the vessel. He found the Consul promulgating the deck in company with the Admiral. The Doctor was received with true French hauteur and scant politeness by Dillon, who extended in recognition one finger of his hand to shake. The visit however resulted in a refusal to release the vessel.

During the whole time of the French occupation, which lasted a fortnight, the Hawaiian flag continued to float, night and day, from the flag-staff of the Fort. I omitted to mention in my last the fact that when the French entered, the officer in command had demanded that Governor Kekuanoua should cause the flag to be hauled down. The Governor's reply was spirited, as well as sound: "If you desire to have the flag down, haul it down yourself—I shall not." And so it remained, for if the French themselves had lowered it, they would have lost even the shadow of a quibble for denying that they had broken the agreement with Great Britain of November 28, 1843, not on any pretext whatever, to take possession of any portion of the Hawaiian territory.

TO THE INHABITANTS OF HONOLULU.

A misunderstanding connected with the non-execution of a Treaty having existed, for some time, between France and the Hawaiian Islands, the undersigned, representing the French Government, has been sent to Honolulu in the hope of settling it amicably and peacefully. With this view he sought an interview with the King in Council, offering to hear their reasons and discuss the question with them, in a conciliatory spirit. The advisers of the King, against whose arbitrary and unconstitutional conduct, the Representatives of the Great Powers, France, the United States and Great Britain, had already protested, in a collective address, on the 18th December, 1843, thereby binding their respective Governments; refused to grant the conference demanded. It became therefore a part of the duty of the undersigned to forward to them an ultimatum, which they have also rejected. In consequence thereof, the Fort of Honolulu has been dismantled by the French forces, now in the harbor, but the Hawaiian flag still waves and will continue to wave over it. The undersigned, who neither aims at an occupation nor a Protectorate, for France, will hasten to withdraw with the forces under his command, the moment his just reclamations are attended to. In the meantime, it is his fixed resolve to respect alike the interests of all foreigners no matter what their creed or country. As far as France is concerned, the convention signed in 1839 by Captain Laplace will form the basis of her relations with these Islands. According to this Treaty French merchandise of all kinds will be admitted at the uniform duty of 5 per cent.

LEOGRANT DE THOMELIN, DEAR ADMIRAL.

On the morning of the day in which the French forces landed in the afternoon, Dillon with his family went on board the *Gaillard*, and remained there for a week. He might, possibly, have deemed that his personal safety would be endangered; but really the act was only in keeping with the role of Bonaparte's favorite, which was natural to him. During the whole time, from the first landing of the French troops until they were withdrawn, Honolulu presented a scene of the utmost quiet and good order. There was not a moment when a French citizen, of whatever rank, could not go about the streets with the utmost safety to his person, and entirely unmolested. French property was just as secure as it ever had been, or as that of the subjects or citizens of any other Government. But Mr. Dillon fled to the protection of a war ship, and before doing so wrote to Mr. Wyllie that "he was himself forced, in consequence of the obstinacy with which the Hawaiian Government has repelled the just demands, formalized both in his name and in the name of M. the Rear Admiral, Commander in Chief, &c., &c., to evacuate his house, situate in the valley of Nuuanu, and of passing with his family, on board one of the vessels of war of his nation." Further adding that he held the Hawaiian Government responsible for "damages or deterioration" which might happen to said property, the valley house with furniture valued at \$10,000, and the Chancellerie at \$3,000.

Previous to the 25th, the French Ad-

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WHOLE NUMBER 77.

miral had addressed a circular letter to the Representatives of Foreign Powers, setting forth the demands that were to be made on the Hawaiian Government, and stating that he should enforce them with the means at his disposal. Joel Tarrill, the eminently respectable and phlegmatic old gentleman who occupied the position of American Consul at the time, was interested sufficiently to respond to the Admiral, expressing in decided terms the opinion that neither the letter nor the spirit of the Treaty with France had been violated by the Hawaiian Government, and protesting against the enforcement of the demands in the manner indicated.

On the 27th, at the suggestion of the Admiral, that a Special Commission appointed by the King should meet him and the Consul on board the *Gaillard*, to confer on questions in dispute, Dr. Judd and Judge Lee were duly appointed such Commissioners, with C. Hopkins as their Secretary. They went on board on the 28th, and that day and evening spent seven hours in a discussion which was barren of results.

On the day before (the 27th) Consul General Miller had become sufficiently aroused to the fact that the French authorities were acting outrageously, as to send the following dispatch to the Admiral:

H. B. M.'S CONSUL GENERAL FOR THE ISLANDS OF THE PACIFIC,

HONOLULU, WAHOO, AUG. 27, 1843.

SIR: The Governments of Great Britain and France having, on the 28th of November, 1843, entered into a Mutual Agreement in the form of a declaration (a copy of which I have the honor to enclose to you) by which they mutually pledged themselves never on any ground or pretext, or under any form, to take possession of any part of the Territory of the Sandwich Islands, it was with extreme regret, that on the 25th instant, I witnessed the seizure and military occupation, which is still continued, of the Fort, Custom House, Treasury, Foreign, and other Government Offices of Honolulu, by detachments of armed men, from 200 to 300 men, belonging to the French Naval Forces in the Pacific Ocean under your command; and this act, of thus taking and holding forcible possession of a part of the territory of the Sandwich Islands, being, I conceive, a violation of the mutual agreement entered into by Great Britain and France, I feel it to be my duty, as the Representative of Her Britannic Majesty's Government at these Islands, to protest, and I do hereby protest against that proceeding, and at the same time I beg to assure you that Great Britain will not see with indifference an exercise of arbitrary violence practiced to the prejudice of a Sovereign and country which she has taken under special protection, while she does not seek, but on the contrary disclaims any wish for paramount influence or privileges not enjoyed by other nations in these Islands. With sentiments of the highest consideration,

I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) WILLIAM MILLER,

H. B. M.'S Consul General for the Islands of the Pacific.

This spirited and appropriately worded dispatch of General Miller, elicited no reply from the Admiral, any more than did the protest of the American Consul and the "remonstrances" of the Consuls for Chile, Peru and Denmark.

An illustration of the spirit of spiteful vandalism that actuated Mr. Dillon, (who was the Admiral's prompter in everything) occurred at the Fort. At the very time when the King's Special Commissioners were engaged on board the *Gaillard* in consultation with the Admiral with a view to coming to some amicable understanding as to the settlement of questions in dispute—the French in the Fort were busily at work in dismantling and gipping the guns, and in throwing several hundred kegs of powder into the sea. For weeks thereafter, the beach in the neighborhood of the Fort and at Fisherman's Point was black with the gunpowder washed up by the sea. Not satisfied with spiking the big guns—several of which were very handsome brass ones, of ancient and curious pattern and workmanship—they labored with hammer and chisel to cut off the trunnions of a number, so as to prevent any possibility of their ever being again of any use. In the Governor's office and residence, which stood on the ramparts, these French barbarians destroyed all the furniture and household utensils, wrote obscene and insulting words in charcoal on the white walls, and otherwise conducted themselves like beasts.

"Les braves Poursuivants"—as they inscribed themselves in bold letters on the Governor's walls—got a scare one night. A lot of our residents, boon companions, and among them that Prince of jokers, Fred W. Thompson, were assembled at the French Hotel, on Fort street, kept by Victor Chancelier, a Frenchman. The French officers made this their headquarters when off duty. Fred and his co-conspirators proceeded by winks and smiles, with now and then a word dropped about "the Fort," and "midnight" and "guns and pistols," and "short and sharp work"—to arouse the terrible suspicion in the minds of the officers that an attempt was to be made that night to re-capture the Fort. One by one the Frenchmen left the hotel and went back to the Fort, watched on their way through the darkness by the chuckling conspirators. Soon there was an unusual racket in the Fort. Drums beat and lights were seen carried hurriedly about. It afterwards transpired, greatly to the satisfaction and amusement of those who had a hand in the hoax, that the French had really anticipated being attacked that night, had posted double sentries and lay on their arms till morning.

H. L. S.

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